

## Administrative Services Committee Meeting

### Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

The meeting convened at 1:32 P.M. at the Douglas County West Campus, 15345 West Maple Road, Omaha, NE 68116. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available at the meeting from Dan Esch, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller. A notice of the meeting was published in the August 23, 2017, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Jim Cavanaugh, Marc Kraft, and P.J. Morgan. Others present at the meeting included Paul Johnson, Emergency Management; Dianne Wallace, Patrick Bloomingdale, Joe Lorenz, and Diane Carlson, Administration; Jerry Leahy and Jeff McGill, Public Properties; John Friend, Clerk of the District Court; Doug Cook, Environmental Services; Bob Soukup, Carlson West Povondra; Chris Jansen, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture; Jeff Stevens, Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom; Dan Kutilek, Engineer; John McCormick, Omaha Fire Department; John Ewing and Tim Cavanaugh, Treasurer's office; Kyle Kramer and Kathy Allen, 911 Communications; and Dan Esch and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office. Jim Cavanaugh chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>

#### **Progress on West Campus Public Safety Bond**

- Commissioner Cavanaugh welcomed guests to the West Campus and said the passing of the Bond by Douglas County citizens and the building renovation at the West Campus marked the dawn of a new era in Douglas County government. This project brings a full array of services to the people of Douglas County at a location that is near the center of the westward expanding County.
- The passage of the Public Safety Bond last November was the result of the hard work and fiscal responsibility of the Douglas County team. Through their efforts, the County achieved a AAA bond rating that allowed it to finance the project without burdening Douglas County property owners. The building project has been financed with no mill levy increase.
- The Bond not only funds the West Campus but also renovation at the downtown Corrections facility as well as upgrades to City and County first responder equipment.
- The timeline for the West Campus renovation (Attachment p.3) shows the progress that has been made on the West Campus and projects a completion date in early 2019.
- John Ewing said the Treasurer's office was eager to be a part of the West Campus project to better serve Douglas County residents who reside near the center of the County. By moving to the West Campus building, the Treasurer's office at 108<sup>th</sup> and Maple will no longer pay rent and will be able to contribute to paying off the Bond debt.

- Mr. Ewing added that the move to the West Campus building will allow the County to move into 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology. Since the Treasurer's office will no longer be housed with the Department of Motor Vehicles, it will be able to utilize staff more effectively and possibly extend hours that are more convenient for the working public.
- Commissioner Cavanaugh said cooperation between the Douglas County Board and elected officials has made the West Campus project possible. The project will restore the building, brickwork will be tuck-pointed, sidewalks will be restored, and the grounds will be landscaped. The plan is to bring the project in on time and on budget.
- Jerry Leahy said the County has had a Master Plan for the West Campus for some time. Once it is completed, there will be 5 departments in the building. During the recession, the County could not move ahead with its plans for restoring the building. At that time, the Sheriff's office had drug forfeiture money that allowed it to renovate the west wing of the building. Now the east wing is being renovated.
- The time line for completing the east wing has been aggressive. The Bond was passed in November; meetings with the architects were held in December; meetings with stakeholders were held in January as was selling of the bonds. By February, the bonds had been sold and the County received money. Remediation of the asbestos concerns was conducted before overall construction could begin; that was completed in June. On August 1 bidding and awarding was complete, and on August 29<sup>th</sup> Hausmann Construction came on board at the site.
- The first level 911 Communication Center required a great deal of planning. The result will be a state-of-the-art communication center (Attachment pp.3-5).
- Commissioner Cavanaugh referred to the progress the County has made to eliminate leases, where the County pays out rent, and to relocate departments to the West Campus that the County owns. (Attachment p. 1) The County will also sell the Menke Circle building and relocate Environmental Services to the West Campus.
- Jeff McGill acknowledged the work of Alley Poyner Macchietto and Carlson West Povondra in meeting with all entities during the programming phase.
- Commissioner Cavanaugh said today it would be prohibitive to build a building like this one and said the County would "preserve the best and improve the rest." There are solid and beautiful components to the building; it is a unique building. The County will preserve the best of the 1929 structure and create a state of the art 2018 building.
- Kyle Kramer spoke to the need for the expanded, updated 911 Center. He has been with 911 Communications for 16 years. There has been no expansion of the Center while the population, number of users, number of cell phones, and the technology have increased. In the current location, there is no Room to house next Generation 911 technology, which includes receiving additional information from cell phones, better mapping applications, and room for multiple displays where additional information can be received and analyzed. The new center will also meet the new demands of a fifth police precinct and the increased demand for more dispatchers for the fire department.

- Commissioner Cavanaugh noted that this 911 Communication Center is an example of inter-governmental cooperation between the City and the County that will save lives. Battalion Chief John McCormick, Omaha Fire Department, said the project meets the needs of the fire dispatchers. With the dispatchers' support, new technology, and the Fire Station Alerting system, first responders will be able to respond more quickly.
- Commissioner Cavanaugh said the cooperation between the City and the County benefits all stakeholders. Minutes save lives. This facility and what is happening at the fire stations will enable first responders to better serve the public. Cooperation among old modes of government is producing new modes of government.

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 P.M. and was followed by a tour of the east wing of the West Campus.